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DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS CENTER
TWA HIJACKING WORKING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 16
SITUATION AS OF 1700 EDT, JUNE 21, 1985

Contrary to press speculation, neither of the two hostages with health problems was released. Berri told Ambassador Bartholomew that Palmer had been examined at American University Hospital and had been found "okay." Berri was sending his own doctor to examine Palmer today to verify this.

Ambassador Bartholomew had a lengthy exchange today with Berri. The ambassador emphasized that the U.S. could not concede to terrorist demands and would not encourage others to do so.

At least several hundred pro-Iranian demonstrators marched on the Beirut airport to express support for the demands of the hijackers of TWA 847.

The Government of Israel has indicated to us that it might release some 31 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners early next week. The Israelis have emphasized that this release should not be linked to the hijacking. The prisoners to be released may be those who had appealed to the Israeli courts.

Islamic leader Sheikh Fadlallah publicly declared his opposition to hijacking, while at the same time indicating his sympathy with the demands of the hijackers for the return of the Ansar prisoners. Shia Parliamentary Speaker Hussein al-Hussein likewise told the press he opposed the hijacking, while condemning Israel's policies in Lebanon.

R. Grant Smith
R. Grant Smith
Co-Coordinator TWAHWC

Greg Talcott
Greg Talcott
Senior Watch

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